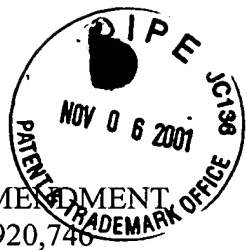


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Application No. 09/920,746



ABSTRACT

A method of optical data transmission whereby digital information data and its associated error control data may be transmitted via an optical transmission line without requiring an increase in the transmission bit rate of the information data. According to the present invention, one subset of the WDM channels of an optical transmission line is employed for the transmission of data including information data ('information channels') but excluding error data, and another separate subset is employed for the transmission of the error control data ('error channels') associated with aforementioned information data (e.g. check bits, bytes or symbols in the case of, e.g., RS codes).

AI